

**STATEMENT BY AGRICULTURE ACTING DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY  
THOMAS O'CONNOR ON PEANUT BUTTER RECALL**

**WASHINGTON, DC - January 23, 2009**

The regulation and safety of peanut butter and peanut products is under the authority of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is coordinating an ongoing investigation into the source of the recent Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak. This investigation resulted in the voluntary recall of product which was produced at the Peanut Corporation of America's Blakely, Georgia plant. Although the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) did not purchase or distribute any products implicated in the recall, these products may have been obtained locally from commercial sources for use at USDA/Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) program sites. It is important that FNS program operators and participants regularly consult the current FDA list of recalled products. This and additional information on the investigation and recall is available on the following links:

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>. and

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>.